/206 cont./
342 [286] grass (Lasiagrostis splendens), often beautifully woven with colored threads across it. This woven belt is also used in the [283] yurt itself as a screen. When putting up the yurt, many different cords are used -- "arkan" /lassos/ -- among which the chief role is played by the "baskur," a woven woolen belt (up to two chetverts in width), which covers the upper circumference of the kerege, thereby giving stability and beauty to the yurt. The framework, which is completely made of the parts mentioned above, is covered with felt. Four rectangular pieces of felt are prepared -- "tuurlyk" -- which cover the kerege and lie on the lower part of the uka. Two trapezoidal parts, called "uzyuk," cover the "uka" up to the chengarak and cover the upper part of the tuurlyk. Six arkan, called "bau," are fastened to the uzyuk, by means of which it is drawn quite tight. Finally a rhomboid piece called "tyunduk" covers the chengarak. When this is opened, it takes the place of a window in the yurt and a chimney for the escape of smoke (the campfire is always laid under it). The door of the yurt faces northeast, in view of the predominance of southern and southwestern winds, and also is placed in the opposite "holy" direction (Mecca and Medina are [289] located to the southwest). The best (white) felt is used on the [531] yurt. Among the rich it is embroidered with colored threads and [286] even with silk and lace trimming. The baskur is woven in beautiful designs, while the yesyk is also woven of chiy matting. [531] All the wooden parts are painted, most frequently in yellow, brown, and blue.

[322] Special artisans, who are called uyge, prepare the wooden [412] parts, and they do everything by means of a small hatchet (chapagot) and a small gimlet (uske). The felt is prepared by [287] the women (usually of the whole village). They also usually [462] put up the yurt. A good yurt costs up to 150 rubles, an ordinary [435] one 80-100 rubles (in the Akmolinsk oblast).

/207/ The yurt described is not the only type, however. Besides it there are others that are used in special cases. Of these we shall mention the kosh, the dzholum-uy and the ablaycha. All of these are simplified versions of the yurt

342 a /400/ small space for the hearth. Over the felt, among the rich, they spread rugs, maple rugs, and so on, and sometimes, in order to give more decoration to the tent, they hang them along the walls. Across the tent they stretch ropes and various braids; they hammer in pegs; they bring in their things. Finally, in the middle of the tent they start a fire, put up a tripod, and on it a kettle of water, and prepare the food.

415 The necessary utensils, both for the rich, the moderately wealthy and the poorest yurt are: the tripods, of various sizes, set up over the fire, the cast iron kettles, also of various sizes, wooden troughs for washing the meat, others for storage of beef extract, also wooden dishes, on which they serve the [412] smaller pieces of meat on the table. In order to cut meat into still smaller pieces every Kazakh has a small knife (pyshak) carefully kept in a sheath hung on his belt. There are also wooden, leather and metal pails, tubs, vats, milk pails, sabas (large skins for kumys), tursuks (small skins for kumys), and other vessels of various shapes and sizes, for the storage of milk, cheeses, meat, and for bouillon which is poured from large kettles, and is sometimes drunk at the meat table. There are [373] also wooden mortars, cups for drinking kumys (fermented mare's milk) and for various other uses, and sometimes metal and earthenware [372] plates, leather bags for gathering tezek (dry cow dung, used for fuel), as well as teapots and metal kumgans (pitcher with spout, handle and lid for washing hands) and other appurtenances of the kitchen and table. The more breakable and the more or less valuable objects